

MLN Matters Number: MM3274

Related Change Request (CR) #: 3274

Related CR Release Date: July 30, 2004

Effective Date: October 1, 2004/January 1, 2005

Related CR Transmittal #: 50

Implementation Date: October 1, 2004/January 3, 2005

Unsolicited/Voluntary Refunds

Note: This article was revised to contain web addresses that conform to the new CMS web site and to show they are now MLN Matters articles. All other information remains the same.

Provider Types Affected

All Medicare providers

Provider Action Needed

Providers need to be aware that the acceptance of a voluntary refund as repayment for the claims specified in no way affects or limits the rights of the Federal Government, or any of its agencies or agents, to pursue any appropriate criminal, civil, or administrative remedies arising from or relating to these or any other claims.

Background

Medicare carriers and intermediaries receive unsolicited/voluntary refunds from providers. These voluntary refunds are not related to any open accounts receivable. Providers billing intermediaries typically make these refunds by submitting adjustment bills, but they occasionally submit refunds via check. Providers billing carriers usually send these voluntary refunds by check.

Related CR 3274 is intended mainly to provide a detailed set of instructions for Medicare carriers and intermediaries regarding the handling and reporting of such refunds. The implementation and effective dates of that CR apply to the carriers and intermediaries. But, the important message for providers is that the submission of such a refund related to Medicare claims in no way limits the rights of the Federal Government, or any of its agencies or agents, to pursue any appropriate criminal, civil, or administrative remedies arising from or relating to those or any other claims.

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Additional Information

If you have any questions regarding this issue, contact your carrier or intermediary at their toll free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.pdf> on the CMS web site.

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